



Updated August 4, 2009

ATTENTION STATUS MAP USERS

August 4, 2009

Topic: Suspension of Hard Copy Map Output

The Land Status GIS (LSGIS) Unit, formally the Status Graphics Unit of LRIS, produces land status maps defining the disposition of state land ownership and resource authorizations. DNR staff and the public use this information to make decisions allocating property rights and defining access to resources. The resultant status maps are static and the map is recreated every time a land action warrants a change. While the process is electronic, it still requires extensive labor by a Cartographer to make the changes.

The Land Status GIS Cartographic Team is dedicated to providing you with a work product that meets your needs and supports DNR decision making. At current staffing levels we are unable to maintain the pace of plat updates. As of May 28, 2009, LSGIS had a backlog of 33,874 cases requiring some form of update to the maps. The growth of the backlog continues to increase each month. There are two main sources for the increased volume. New software and databases to streamline operations raise the efficiency of staff - databases are now analyzed for internal consistency and this generates an increased workload.

Updating static maps remains a slow process. LSGIS staff spend close to 40 - 55% of their time in annotation scales, label placement, leadering, and supplemental map creation. Complex townships require more cartographic work to produce the final map product.

Last year we requested additional funding to hire more cartographers to reduce the backlog and convert the remaining black and white maps to the new color map products. We were unsuccessful. We believe it is necessary to investigate other alternatives to meet the needs of the end user to provide a current and accurate record. We are requesting funds this year to reduce the backlog and deliver a dynamic solution that will support higher quality maps than offered by either Alaska Mapper or MapGuide, and to provide staff with reporting functions that when coupled with the results of Unified Permit and the Content Management System, will grow into a electronic Title Report.

As we wait for results of the FY11 CIP request, we plan to take steps in this direction. This means we will temporarily suspend plat production and focus staff time on the update process. Users will benefit from more current information in both Alaska Mapper and MapGuide. We will maintain our quality control standards but will not have the overhead of creating and checking the final hard copy map product. With the support of

the CIP, the backlog can be reduced down and maintained at less than a 30 day turnaround on new pending actions. The idea is being discussed with management and within DMLW and Oil and Gas. Managers and staff who participated in the demonstration have been receptive to the overall change and direction.

Until a more sophisticated web-based dynamic map environment is developed, the user will need to use the existing on-line mapping tools such as Alaska Mapper and MapGuide to get the most current and up-to-date information. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact me at 269-8832 or by email at duncan.purvis@alaska.gov or Frank Wallis at 269-8847 or by email at frank.wallis@alaska.gov.

March 19, 2008

The Department of Natural Resources is in the process of converting the state status plats from the black and white format to color. The new color township plats are being added to the [Landrecords.Info](#) website as they are converted to the new map types. In addition to the Land, Mineral and Water Estate maps, there are two new maps products to assist in your research, the Ownership Map and the Surface Classification Map. Not all townships will have all five map types. Map types are created based on the data within the township.

Please refer to the [New DNR Status Map Manual](#) under Help Documents to assist you in using the new map products. Training for DNR staff will begin in March 2007. This will allow time for Status Graphics staff to populate the map inventory with new map products.

To help with the transition period, the original black and white; offset-line township plats will remain available for your use until that township is converted to the new color format. **However; the original black and white maps are not being updated - only the color maps reflect current land status.** As pending actions are noted to a township, the new map products will be created. The user must check for any pending actions that may affect the township. Please refer to the [Plat Information Management System](#) to verify the status of pending actions.

As of February 4, 2008, all the vector data maintained by LRIS was converted from North American Datum 1927 (NAD27) to the North American Datum 1983 (NAD83). This includes all the DNR land status data that is used to create the Department's new colored status maps. Users need to beware how the migration to NAD83 will affect existing colored maps.

Any new status maps created and not updated prior to conversion date are still in NAD27. You can determine what datum the map was created in by looking in the upper left side of the map just above the map scale. As pending actions are done against those townships, only the maps requiring the update will be produced in NAD83. The remaining maps within the township **WILL NOT** be updated until a pending action comes in that requires the map to be re-created. This decision was made to save a considerable amount of time that would be required to publish the entire map series for a given township again. All colored maps within a township that are created after February 4, 2008 will be in NAD83.

With any new software, problems are anticipated. I will use this bulletin to report issues that we are having with the software that may affect the end user of our product and try to provide a workaround if we have one. Below is a list of current problems we are experiencing with the end product:

Date: January 29, 2007

Problem: Not all status annotation is being linked to the LAS casefile when you pass the cursor over the label on the pdf document in Land Records.

Workaround: Enter the file type and file number in DNR Case Lookup for the specific casefile you are interested in viewing.

Status: Unresolved.

Date: March 19, 2008

Problem: Some map .PDF's may not completely publish and only a partial map is displayed.

Workaround: Use the [Land Records Customer Feedback Form](#) to notify Status Graphics of the problem. Please provide the MTR, map type and if applicable the section. Status Graphics will create a new .PDF and re-publish the map to the Land Records website.

Status: Unresolved.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Duncan Purvis at 269-8832 or contact Carrie Marvel at 269-8838. Thank you.

Duncan Purvis

Manager, DNR Land Status GIS Unit

Land Records Information Section, Alaska Department of Natural Resources